

# Public radio system question awaits bureaucratic resolution

By Tom Eaton

Will Nebraska have a public radio system? That is the question forwarded to the Nebraska Legislature and Gov. J. James Exon by the Nebraska Educational Television Commission. At an Aug. 18 meeting the commissioners voted 6 to 3 in favor of a public radio system.

The vote followed two years of discussion. W. Boyd Rooney, UNL television operations assistant general manager, said the proposal calls for construction costing \$1,315,523. The state's share would be \$403,670. Federal matching funds would contribute the remaining \$911,853.

The plan calls for five studios and nine radio towers. Studios would be at Lincoln and Kearney State, Chadron State, Wayne State and Peru State Colleges. Towers would be ETV towers already in operation, except in Omaha and near Pawnee City. A tower is planned for a site near Pawnee City, while KYNE's tower would not be used in the public radio system. Towers are in Mead, Lexington, Alliance, Norfolk, Hastings, North Platte, Merriman and Bassett.

**Towers already exist**

"One of the attractive features of the proposal is that the towers and buildings for the system already exist,"

Rooney said. "The foundation for interconnection also is there."

State approval must precede federal approval, Rooney said. State law must be changed to allow ETV to operate radio, and state funds must be approved for Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensing.

"With the increased FCC workload in the last couple of years, it is impossible to tell when licensing could be approved," Rooney said. "A wild guess is that operations could begin within two years of legislative approval."

Programming would be divided into state, national and regional levels. It would be devoted "heavily" to the arts, education and public affairs, he said.

**Gilmore supports concept**

Alvin Gilmore, NETV commissioner from Omaha, said he supports the public radio concept.

"It would be a very positive influence, especially for the underprivileged and handicapped people who might not be able to go to see a concert," Gilmore said.

The NU Board of Regents has come out against public radio and instructed its representative to the commission, Steven Semple, NU vice president for academic affairs, to vote against the proposals at the commission's Aug. 18 meeting.

## short stuff

The Agronomy Club is sponsoring a watermelon feed for past and prospective members Thursday at 7 p.m. in Keim Hall 244 on East Campus. The feed will follow the group's meeting.

Alpha Zeta, the agriculture service honorary, is sponsoring a picnic during its meeting this evening at 5:30 in Peter Pan Park, 33rd and W streets.

The UNL Student Veterans Organization will meet Friday at 5 p.m. in Nebraska Union 338.

A College Life meeting, sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ, will be Thursday at 8 p.m. in the

University Lutheran Chapel, 1510 Q St.

Persons interested in doing volunteer work may contact the Community Involvement Service, Nebraska Union 200, or call 472-2486 for information on volunteer areas.

The UNL Rugby Club will have an organizational meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Women in Communications will meet Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. The meeting room number will be posted.

The League of Women Voters is urging the major party presidential candidates to meet in public debate. Petitions for the debate may be signed in the ASUN and Intrafraternity Council offices.

FarmHouse Fraternity and Delta Delta Delta Sorority are sponsoring a watermelon feed for all university students Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. on the north side of the Nebraska Union. Nearly 3,000 lbs. of watermelon will be served by such cutters as Mayor Helen Boosalis, NU President D. B. Varner, UNL Chancellor Roy Young, UNL Vice Chancellors Miles Tommerassen, Ken Bader and Marvin Massengale, NU Regent Robert Prokop, ASUN President Bill Mueller, Dean of Student Development Ely Meyerson, Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett, NU Athletic Director Bob Devaney, UNL head football coach Tom Osborne, and UNL head basketball coach Joe Cipriano.

Applications for the Fulbright-Hays Scholarship for graduate study abroad are available in Oldfather Hall 1003. Deadline for submitting applications is Oct. 1.

Citizens to Preserve Wilderness Park is sponsoring a photography contest. There are four categories: nature photo, black and white or color prints not larger than 9 by 12 inches; nature photo, color slides—pictorial photo, color slides. Each winner will receive a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond and a Wilderness Park T-shirt. Deadline is Sept. 20 and entries may be mailed to Citizens to Preserve Wilderness Park, Box 80701, Lincoln, 68501. Winners will be announced at the group's Oct. 4 meeting.

The Ralph Mueller Planetarium resumes its school-year schedule today. Presentations will be Saturdays at 2:45 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. No programs are on home football Saturdays. On Labor Day, Sept. 6, shows will be at 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. The current presentation is "13 Stars." "Where No Man Has Gone Before" starts Sept. 11.

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